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SEARCH REQUEST FORM

Scientific and Technical Information Center

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Requester's Full Name: Dean T. Nguyen Examiner #: 70850 Date: 12/30
Art Unit: 3629 Phone Number: 800-2053 Serial Number: 9/474,909
Mail Box and Bldg/Room Location: _____ Results Format Preferred (circle): PAPER DISK E-MAIL

If more than one search is submitted, please prioritize searches in order of need.

Please provide a detailed statement of the search topic, and describe as specifically as possible the subject matter to be searched. Include the elected species or structures, keywords, synonyms, acronyms, and registry numbers, and combine with the concept or utility of the invention. Define any terms that may have a special meaning. Give examples or relevant citations, authors, etc, if known. Please attach a copy of the cover sheet, pertinent claims, and abstract.

Title of Invention: see Abstract attached
Inventors (please provide full names): (3) MARRY, Richard ; GOTTlieb, Robert
DANIELS, Ed

Earliest Priority Filing Date: 12/28/99 2/3

For Sequence Searches Only Please include all pertinent information (parent, child, divisional, or issued patent numbers) along with the appropriate serial number.

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Type of Search

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~~METHOD OF CALCULATING SORTING COSTS FOR CHARGEBACK~~
~~ACCOUNTING FOR AN INCOMING MAIL SORTING APPARATUS~~

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by providing a
5 method of calculating sorting costs for incoming mail. The foregoing is
accomplished by providing a method that can determine the number and types of
mailpieces being sorted and associated that number with addressee information.
The combination of the number and types of mailpieces being sorted for the
addressees can then be used to calculate a charge back amount by using a
10 predetermined cost per mailpiece. Thus, the present invention is directed to, in a
general aspect, a method of calculating sorting costs for an incoming mail sorting
apparatus having a database of addressees for use in sorting incoming
mailpieces comprising the steps of: collecting information about each one of a
plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the
15 information used to determine a type of mailpiece for each one of the plurality of
mailpieces; determining the type of mailpiece using the information collected; and
associating the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted
using the incoming mail sorting apparatus with addressee information from the
database of addressees; calculating a piece count for each mailpiece for each
20 addressee; and calculating a charge back amount from the piece count and a
predetermined cost.

Amendments to the Claims

M1 3 3
1. (currently amended): A method of calculating sorting costs for an incoming mail sorting apparatus having a database of addressees for use in sorting incoming mailpieces comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting information about each one of a plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the information used to determine a type of mailpiece and addressee information for each one of the plurality of mailpieces;
- b) determining the type of mailpiece using the information collected in step a);
- c) associating the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus with addressee information from the database of addressees;
- d) storing a piece count for each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the piece count stored in association with corresponding addressee information from the database of addressees and said determined type of mailpiece in the incoming mail sorting apparatus; and
- e) calculating incoming sorting cost information using the piece count stored in association with the corresponding addressee and a predetermined unit price for each type of mailpiece.

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2. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces comprises a type of mailpiece selected from the group consisting of: a letter, a flat and a postcard.

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3. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces comprises a type of addressee information selected from the group consisting of: hand print, hand script, interoffice and interoffice form.